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# RURAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT

1962

## newsletter

June 1962

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*We must show the  
world what a  
free economy can do  
...to put unused  
capacity to work,  
spur new  
productivity and  
foster higher  
economic growth.  
President Kennedy.*

### EXAMPLES OF GOING RECREATION ENTERPRISES

■ Forest Service, USDA, surveyed its field offices and State Foresters for examples of going commercial recreation, wildlife and fish enterprises on privately-owned forest lands, and came up with some interesting stories. Here are a few examples:

\* Bullfrog Park, Oregon City, Oregon, developed and owned by Clarence Hitchman, a former farmer, logger and bulldozer operator. Hitchman built two, 3-acre ponds on part of his 150-acre forest. He equipped the area with picnic tables for 1,000 persons. There is plenty of running water, and other modern facilities. Up to 1,500 customers at a time have been in the park. Hitchman maintains a buffer zone of natural woodland around the park, which adds to the primitive atmosphere.

\* Hinegardner's Hunting Lodge, Dover, Arkansas, consists of a 440-acre wooded area enclosed with wire mesh fence, with wild hog hunting the specialty. Hinegardner charges \$40 per hog killed. He also rents cabins, and hopes to expand this year.



\* Mr. and Mrs. Horne and son of Somersworth, N. H., operated Gitchee Gumee, a camping recreational site on Bear Camp River, in New Hampshire. The Horne's have 25 tent sites, tables, fireplaces, a bathing beach, a recreation area and a community campfire area at the site.

\* Two school teachers from Rapid City, S. D., and a motel operator, purchased 80 acres of forest land along heavily traveled U. S. 16A and developed a campground in 1960. They now provide accommodations for tent and trailer campers passing through the area, or visiting nearby Mt. Rushmore.



- \* In Youngsville, Pa., land originally bought for timber production now supports a ski business. Hill enterprises, Inc., developed four ski runs, a snack bar, and a ski school. Last year 1500 skiers paid to use the facilities.
- \* The Foster Lake Club, Alfred, N. Y., is a day-use membership club, located in Central New York, about three miles from a small college town. Eddy Foster, the owner, constructed two earth dams at opposite ends of a natural saddle in a 200-acre Christmas tree plantation. The resulting 25-acre lake is stocked with trout, bass and bluegills. There's a swimming area and boating facilities. Family memberships are \$15 per year plus a \$5 initiation fee. Currently there are 164 family memberships -- capacity is around 200.



#### RURAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT -- STATEWIDE

■ Arkansas - The rural areas development people report that the "Dogwood Drive" activity -- to get more tourists into the Batesville Area -- was highly successful. Bill Rosa, area tourist chairman, was pleased with the response. Rosa reports that car traffic in the Blanchard Springs area of Arkansas, during the festival, was heaviest it had ever been during April or May in prior years. In Stone County, two traffic checks indicated that the traffic was 50 percent heavier during one week.



■ Georgia - Local people of Tift County formed a local corporation and raised \$175,000 of \$275,000 needed to purchase a building for processing and freezing vegetables. When completed, it will provide jobs for 60 people. In White County, there are plans to expand the city of Helen water system to serve hosiery and sportswear plants. These two industries would increase employment by approximately 80 people.

■ Missouri - Area people of Grundy and Mercer counties in the north-central part of the state, are doing something about solving their own problems. They've set up the Green Hills Area Development Council to study their problems and ways of solving them. Richard Collins writing in the Missouri Farmer says: "It will take some real effort and ability to correct the problems accumulated over the years. But where attitudes are changing, where awareness is present, where willingness to give and take on the part of all is in evidence, there is hope that the handwriting on the wall has been interpreted in time."



■ Oregon - J. S. Scheel, executive Secretary of the State RAD Committee reports that, to speed up approval of OEDP'S and project proposals, the state rural areas development committee at times uses the "phone technique" -- calling all committee members for their comments. Though a bit costly, the technique hastens approvals.



## FARMERS HOME ANNOUNCES NEW FORESTRY LOAN PROGRAM

■ Farmers Home Administration recently announced a new farm forestry loan program to help eligible farmers carry out better forestry management practices, expand their forest resources, and to convert crop land to forestry uses. The FHA loan funds may be used for fencing, pest control, thinning, and fire protection. In addition, funds may be used for clearing and preparing land for forestry planting, for purchasing and planting forest seed or small trees, for farm land that is or will be forest land, and for refinancing debts against forest land.

The loans will bear 3 percent interest and will be repayable over periods up to 40 years. When necessary the initial payments on the loans may be deferred for periods up to 15 years. The maximum loan under the program is \$60,000, or the value of the security provided by the individual farmer. For more information, contact your area FHA office.

## PROGRESS CONTINUES IN AREA REDEVELOPMENT



\* The ARA training program is accelerating rapidly. There are now 100 training projects, with 8,500 workers in 30 states learning new skills. Forty-one of these training projects were approved in the past two months.

\* During the first two weeks in May, ARA approved eight new projects, involving \$337,750, which will create 667 new permanent jobs. There were also four technical assistance projects.

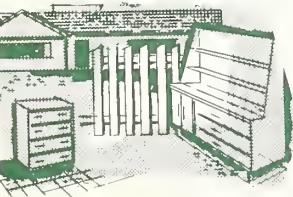
\* A \$61,750 industrial loan to build and equip a plant in Clarksville, Texas, for the manufacture and repair of athletic equipment, was approved. It will provide employment for 40 workers. The project is in Red River county, an area with an active rural areas development program. USDA reviewed this project, before ARA approved it.

\* ARA celebrated its first anniversary with this record of accomplishments: OEDP'S from 535 areas; approval of 40 financial assistance projects which will create 10,716 new jobs; 33 technical assistance projects; 100 retraining projects.

## USDA REPORTS DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS

■ Already, over 100 project proposals have been received by Agriculture, 72 of which have been recommended to ARA for their consideration. Commerce has approved 17 projects in rural areas. If projects already reviewed by Agriculture are finally approved, they will provide direct employment for some 12,000 people.

Projects include everything from the building of a steel mill to the construction of tourist and recreational facilities. One local group in Florida aims to develop a food processing and freezer plant, and if approved will employ 90 workers.



A group in Kentucky has asked for help in expanding an existing plant which produces wooden kitchen cabinets. If approved by ARA, 118 more persons in the rural area will receive employment.

## SECRETARY FREEMAN OUTLINES MULTIPLE USES OF PRIVATE LANDS

■ In a speech at the White House Conference on Conservation, held in Washington, D. C., May 24, Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman said: "A common solution of farm problems and those of an urban people seeking space for living and outdoor recreation can be found in conservation principles and multiple-use of private lands."



Secretary Freeman reported that the Department of Agriculture proposes to develop a few pilot Town and Country recreation programs which will tie together the urban need for open air recreation with resources available in nearby farming areas. He also reported USDA is prepared to start a few grassland demonstration projects, a few family forest pilot projects, and some rural renewal pilot projects -- all aimed at meeting the changing needs of All Americans.

## EXAMPLES OF TWO FARMERS CHANGING FROM DAIRY TO RECREATION

\* George W. Convaty, Shoreham, Vermont, writes: "In the past few months, the U. S. Department of Agriculture and others interested in the welfare of farmers have been talking about the possibility of converting some farms into recreation farms."

"This idea occurred to me (Convaty) when I purchased this dairy farm in 1959. I stopped dairying and formed Monteverde Lodge and Riding Farm. Converted the dairy barn into a horse and pony barn by building eleven box stalls, built a new pole barn, a corral, a quarter mile race and training track, bridle trails, two ponds, installed new fencing, improved the maple sugar bush, built and furnished a Lodge consisting of five separate, three-room apartments, reconditioned the 17-room farmhouse, into 10 bedrooms." The farm is open year-round.

\* Another example of a farmer who has created a paying recreation activity is Everett Cox and his wife Viola. Last summer they turned much of the pasture-land on their Greenwood Lake, N. Y. farm into a family camp ground. The camp area is on 48 acres, about 20 acres of which is on fairly level land. The rest is wooded and hilly. There are 30 tenting sites, for which the Coxes realized \$3 per campsite per night.

The Coxes converted the dairy barn into a "Camp Store" where soft drinks, ice cream, candies and novel gifts are sold. There is also a large recreation room where campers may go to play cards and games, read, dance, or just get to know their fellow campers.

There are many recreation activities for campers nearby such as: boating and fishing on Greenwood Lake, hiking on the Appalachian Trail, visits to West Point and Sterling Gardens. To the delight of the small-fry campers, the Coxes keep Conchita, a young Mexican burro.

## SOIL CONSERVATION NAMES FULL-TIME RAD OFFICIAL

■ The Soil Conservation Service, USDA, transferred Herschel Hecker to Washington as assistant to Deputy Administrator Gladwin E. Young, a position in which he will work fulltime on SCS activities in rural areas development and rural renewal. Previously, various members of the Administrator's staff handled such assignments. Hecker, an SCS veteran, was State Conservationist in Kentucky from 1957 to now.